committed irregularities in the utilisation of JRY funds. Every possible efforts are being taken by the Government of India to avoid the misuse of JRY funds.

Rehabilitation of people affected by floods in Tehri Hydro Project Area

521. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the U.P. Government and the Tehri Hydro-Power Development Corporation recently that the people likely to be affected by floods during rainy season in the Tehri project area are only to be evacuated and not permanently rehabilitated somewhere;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to rehabilitate them after the monsoon season; and

(c) the total number of people affected by this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation have been advised to stay the shifting of the population from the project area. However, people threatened by floods during the monsoon can be evacuated, and could return to their homes after the floods are over.

(c) 4909 rural families and 5291 urban families are required to be relocated at alternate sites as a result of the construction of the Tehri Project-Stage-I. Another 3998 rural families would only be partially affected and would not be required to be displaced.

Abandoning of oil search in the Bengal basin

522. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has abondoned/propose to abondon oil search in the Bengal Basin;

(b) if so, when the exploration for oil search was started in the Bengal Basin;

(c) the estimated expenditure incurred so far on the project; and

(d) the reasons for abondoning the work after incurring huge expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Exploration for hydrocarbons in West Bengal was initiated in 1949 by Standard Vacuum Oil Company of USA. Subsequently, this was followed by Indo-Stanvac Petroleum (ISPP). ONGC started exploration in this basin in 1962 and is persuing it, ever since.

(c) Besides the expenditure incurred by other oil companies, the ONGC has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 644.96 crores in Bengal Basin till 31.3.1996.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Aging Nuclear Installations in the Country

523. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item entitled "Atomic Board Chief Blasts DAE" published in "The Pinoeer" dated the June 17, 1996;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that many of the country's nuclear installations have aged and have serious problems characteristic of the early vintage design; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?